

For immediate release

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July 23, 2009

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Funding included for key programs to expand affordable transportation and housing options in the 13th District

Washington, D.C. – Today, Congressman Sires supported H.R. 3288, the fiscal year 2010 Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill, which passed the House by a vote of 256 to 168. This bill makes a number of key investments in transportation infrastructure and vital housing programs.

“Transportation and housing expenses are the two largest expenses for most households – in many cases, they account for nearly 50% of household incomes,” said Congressman Sires. “Providing adequate and affordable transportation and housing options directly benefits families and residents in the 13th district. I’m proud to support H.R. 3288, which expands these critical programs.”

For transportation, the House bill provides funding to improve public transportation, repair aging highway infrastructure, and advance high speed and intercity rail projects, such as the Northeast Corridor running through New Jersey. Investments to modernize our airports and air traffic control systems are included as well.

Considerable investments in housing programs were also made. Specifically, the bill provides increased funding for various housing programs serving veterans, elderly and disabled populations, and persons with AIDS. Increased funding for the Community Development Block Grant and Brownfields Redevelopment programs is also included, which helps to ease the burden on local budgets.

“I’m proud that the bill includes \$1.4 billion for housing for the elderly and disabled as well as

\$75 million for veterans in need of a safe and stable place to live,” said Sires. “This bill generously supports these vulnerable populations, who need added assistance especially during difficult economic times.”

Additionally, for those who own a home, this bill provides funding for housing counseling programs to help guide families into homes they can afford and to help those who are facing foreclosure from losing their home.

H.R. 3288 now awaits Senate action.

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